

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
LAFAYETTE, INDIANA 47907

*CBW  
concep.*

PROGRAM IN SCIENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY

March 12, 1970

Dr. Matthew S. Meselson  
Professor of Biology  
Biological Laboratories  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Dr. Meselson:

I am a doctoral candidate in Political Science at Purdue University in Indiana. I am interested in CBW. I got interested in the same way most people do -- reading media reports about sheep being killed, defoliants and tear gas being used and germs being mass produced. What I read was sobering and frightening. I would now like to do some serious and systematic research on the subject of CBW politics.

I came across your name and involvement in many places, particularly in Congressional testimony and Science magazine. If you can spare some time this summer, I would like to discuss certain aspects of CBW policy with you.

My analytic focus will be the Nixon administration decisions of 1969-70. I will examine the extent to which goals were considered, and a rational process of decision-making pursued. The options presented, the framing of issues, and the selection of participants in each decision would all be necessary ingredients. A formal proposal which I defined in more analytic terms is included if you wish to read it.

More generally, what I hope to do is look at groups and individuals engaged in the politics of CBW policymaking and their interests. It seems at a glance that domestic safety questions (such as the Dugway and Globe incidents raise) are paramount to scientific and congressional critics in their efforts to restrain and reform the CBW advocates. I am led to question whether international considerations (the Protocol, proliferation, escalation of gas uses in Vietnam) are the most difficult to articulate effectively; strategic and tactical (military demands from Vietnam) interests may be incrementally pursued with limited scrutiny. How reform and coordination of policies may be pursued more effectively is my relevant question.

continued

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One way I hope to deal with these questions is through extensive and intensive interviews. The most difficult problem I anticipate is getting names and cooperation from government and military personnel who participated (in research, as advisors, as spokesmen) in the recent decisions. Do you know of any ACDA, State, DOD or military personnel who might assist me with leads and/or (best of all) interviews?

If you could give me any suggestions or names, I would greatly appreciate hearing from you.

I also look forward to talking to you this summer if you feel it will be possible and worthwhile.

Sincerely yours,



Paul Conway  
Graduate Instructor

Enclosures